Sale of kidneys in Kerala

503. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report that starving tribals of Idukki district in Kerala are selling their kidneys to make a living, which appered in the Hindustan Times, dated the 11th June, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Sale and purchase of human organs including kidney is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organ. Act, 1994. The Act has stringent provisions for punishing any one who commits such acts.

Under Section 13(2) of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act who are empowered to investigate any complaints of breath of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs including kidney. The Act has been adopted by several States including the Government of Kerala.

Merging of Department of ISMH with Department of Health

504. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy was created without following proper procedures;

(b) if not, the year in which concurrence of Ministry of Finance was obtained for creation of Group 'A' posts for the Department; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to merge this department with the Department of Health as per the recommendation of Fifth Central Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.